



Sam Killebrew Sr.

Sam Killebrew Sr. revolutionized the agriculture industry with his patented invention of the bulk fertilizer hauler in 1952.

The hauler provided an easier, more efficient and cost-effective way to deliver nutrients to multiple crops, most notably citrus. The hauler, known as “The Killebrew,” eliminated the manual handling of fertilizer, including bagging, opening and dumping into spreaders.

Killebrew moved from Tennessee to Auburndale to work as a trucker and mechanic, and eventually worked for Adams Packing Company, where he learned to weld and devised the hauler.



The Killebrew bulk fertilizer hauler

Killebrew invented additional tools to reduce costs and streamline farming practices, including dry and liquid fertilizer spreaders, logging trailers, city refuse units and bulk citrus high-lifts.

Killebrew has been inducted into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame and the Southwestern Fertilizer Conference Hall of Fame.